

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A system comprising:

5 a computer implemented procurement module for processing both
purchase order requisitions for goods and timecard information for services,
said procurement module comprising:

a buyer module for receiving information related to contractor
services and for generating an electronic timecard in response thereto;

10 and

a timecard module receiving electronic timecards from said buyer
module and for generating a purchase order based on approved
electronic timecards, said purchase order for use in generating a
payment for said contractor services.

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2. A system as described in Claim 1 wherein said computer
implemented procurement module further comprises a workflow module

coupled to said timecard module for use in allowing an approver to approve and decline said electronic timecards.

3. A system as described in Claim 2 wherein said timecard module
5 generates an approval notification in response to receiving an electronic
timecard from said buyer module.

4. A system as described in Claim 3 wherein said approval
notification is an electronic mail message comprising an approval form readable
10 by said workflow module, said electronic mail message transmitted to an
approver related to said contractor services.

5. A system as described in Claim 4 wherein said approval form is
readable by an electronic mail program and is returned to said computer
15 implemented procurement system after being completed by said approver.

6. A system as described in Claim 2 wherein said buyer module is browser based and wherein said procurement module is hosted on a remote server system.

5 7. A system as described in Claim 2 wherein said computer implemented procurement system further comprises an external report generating module for generating information to be used by external applications and wherein said information is formatted using XML data.

10 8. A system as described in Claim 2 wherein said electronic timecard comprises a plurality of line items describing said contractor services and comprising:

a contractor identification;

a description of services rendered;

15 an amount of hours performed for said services rendered;

an hourly rate for said hours; and

subtotals representing said amount of hours by said hourly rate.

9. A system as described in Claim 2 wherein said timecard module comprises a contractor profile for a contractor, said contractor profile comprising:

a contractor identification;

5 authorized projects for said contractor;

authorized work types for said contractor;

an authorized hourly rate for said contractor; and

an approver for said contractor.

10 10. A system as described in Claim 3 wherein said electronic timecard comprises a plurality of line items and wherein said approval notification comprises information from said electronic timecard and an accounting code associated with each line time of said electronic timecard.

15 11. A method of approving an electronic timecard comprising:
a) generating an electronic timecard comprising line items describing: a contractor; services rendered; hourly amounts; and hourly rates;

b) in response to a), generating a notification to an approver associated with said contractor, said notification comprising an approval form and information related to said electronic timecard;

c) in response to receiving said approval form indicating approval of said timecard, generating a purchase order comprising information from said timecard; and

d) transmitting said purchase order to execute payment to said contractor of said timecard, wherein a) - d) are performed by a procurement system integrating both purchase order requisitions for goods and timecard information for services.

12. A method as described in Claim 11 wherein a) is performed by a buyer using a browser based computer system and wherein said procurement system is hosted on a remote server from said buyer.

13. A method as described in Claim 11 wherein said notification is a first electronic mail message transmitted to said approver and stored in an electronic mailbox.

14. A method as described in Claim 13 further comprising transmitting said approval form from said approver to said procurement system via a second electronic mail message.

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15. A method as described in Claim 13 wherein said notification comprises accounting codes associated with said line items of said timecard.

16. A method as described in Claim 11 wherein d) is performed using XML data.

17. A computer system comprising:
a processor coupled to a bus;
a memory coupled to said bus and comprising instructions that when
executed implement a method of approving an electronic timecard comprising:

a) generating an electronic timecard comprising line items
describing: a contractor; services rendered; hourly amounts; and hourly
rates;

b) in response to a), generating a notification to an approver associated with said contractor, said notification comprising an approval form and information related to said electronic timecard;

c) in response to receiving said approval form indicating approval of said timecard, generating a purchase order comprising information from said timecard; and

d) transmitting said purchase order execute payment to said contractor of said timecard, wherein a) - d) are performed by a procurement system integrating both purchase order requisitions for goods and timecard information for services.

18. A computer system as described in Claim 17 wherein a) is performed by a buyer using a browser based computer system and wherein said procurement system is hosted on a remote server from said buyer.

19. A computer system as described in Claim 17 wherein said notification is a first electronic mail message transmitted to said approver and stored in an electronic mailbox.

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